

THE LIGHT OF EGYPT

THE STRANGE STORY OF THE ROSICRUCIANS

By SRI. RAMATHERIO



LORD EDWARD BULWER LYTTON

an enthusiastic Brother of the Order of Rosicrucians, described it as: "An august fraternity—most jealous of all secret societies—whose doctrines (hinted at by the earliest philosophers) are still a mystery to the greatest scholars not initiated. Its members still prosecute their profound researches into natural sciences and occult philosophy, and no monastic order is so severe in the practice of moral precepts."

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AMORC

TRADE MARK

**The Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis,
Jurisdiction of North America**

ROSICRUCIAN PARK
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



SIR FRANCIS BACON, K. R. C.
IMPERATOR OF THE ROSICRUCIANS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY



The Symbolism of the Story

It is the most astounding story of mystery, romance and religion ever recorded in the annals of historical facts. I hesitate to attempt its telling in less than thousands of pages, and am reluctant to reduce its fascinating details to mere recitals of gripping events.

Thirty-two hundred years have passed; nearly thirteen thousand generations of civilization have left their indelible mark upon the evolution of man's progress of attainment since the Rose and the Cross were united in this sublime symbol under which thousands today pursue their illuminated courses to definite goals of success, power and inner peace.

I stand at the Portal of a great city and see through the open gates of **gold**, the **white city** of the **Holy Assembly** of the Great Brotherhood. And, secure in the knowledge that eternally it shall be the haven of the seekers for **Light, Life and Love**, I glance backward over the descending slopes of the **mountain**. In memory's sight I see the trammelled lanes of the land below, peopled with the searching souls and devoted hearts who found the **Path** and paused in their glorious journey long enough to erect the **Signs** that point the **Way**.

Pictured before me is the panorama of the materialized dream of the Magi of old, the inspiration of the Cosmic Hosts and the labors of the true kindred. Shall I turn again and describe only what I see within the sacred walls? Or fix my view upon the story of the past?

The past is gone; but what sustaining encouragement we find in history's precedents and through attainment's tests and trials! I hear the call: "Show us the Way!" And to the humble I speak the words which only they will understand. It is the old, old story; "Ad Rosam per Crucem, ad Crucem per Rosam!"

SRI. RAMATHERIO, Scribe.

The Story of the Rosicrucians

WHO THEY ARE—WHAT THEY DO

There is no other word, perhaps, in the whole history of man's development along the lines of mental power, culture, and personal evolution, that arouses in the mind so many pictures of human accomplishment against overwhelming odds, as the word **Rosicrucian**.

Its very sound brings to the consciousness of millions of persons a quickening of the pulse, arrested attention, and visions of men and women in all ages, in all climes, adhering to a great principle and building for the future generations a heritage of mental prowess and inner illumination as noble and adamant as the pyramids.

And with it all there are the elements of mystery and romance as fascinating as any story ever told by Jules Verne and as rich in human experiences as any encyclopaedia.

THE FIRST ROSICRUCIANS

Very tangible and dependable historical evidence indicates the definite existence of the Rosicrucians in the days of Moses and his tribes. The references to them and their associations at that time give us a traditional history that leads far back into the dawn of civilization in Egypt and other oriental countries.

Certain it is that in the mystery schools of the seventeenth dynasty of Egypt the spirit of the Rosicrucian body was manifest, and if not before, then at least in the year 1350 B.C., the first foundations of the brotherhood were laid with every intent that they should remain, as the pyramids and mystery temples themselves, as eternal monuments to the glory of man's awakening into the Light of his creative powers.

In the traditional history of the Rosicrucians we find one man standing out boldly in the light of illumination. He was Amenhotep IV, Pharaoh of Egypt, and the world's "first great citizen," to quote the eminent historians of Egypt's period of re-birth. Descendant of a previous Pharaoh who had established the first secret schools of advanced learning in Egypt and who was known as the Heretic King because of his modern viewpoints, and born of parents who looked forward to his coming as the first great ruler of a mighty brotherhood of enlightened men and women, and every ancient principle of pre-natal education was applied by his parents and special teachers in order to instill the wisdom of the orient, the wisdom of the sages, into this unborn consciousness.*

And, Amenhotep IV, at an early age was made King as well as the high potentate of a secret organization which in a few years changed the whole religion of Egypt, cast aside its antiquated art, revised its language and literature, ended its continuous warfare, rebuilt its falling Temples, created new cities and instructed the Tribes of Moses in the laws of God and nature. Out of the great Light thus brought into almost blinding effulgence in darkened Egypt, there passed to many lands and to many nations of peoples a new standard of living, a new system of thinking, a new process of cooperative action, which became the foundation for every one of our present day methods of higher education and successful living.

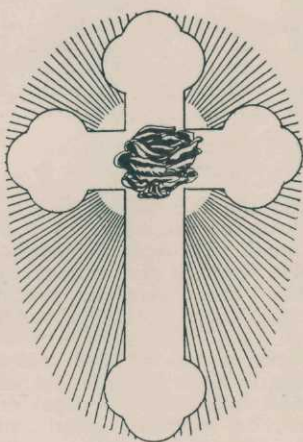
Amenhotep changed his name—along with thousands of other changes

* The ancient art of pre-natal culture reached its greatest heights of development in Greece. For centuries it has been a forgotten art and is only now receiving the attention at the hands of educators—and parents—which it deserves.

he authorized—and into the world's history stepped Akhnaten IV, the man of whom history has written that he was the world's first modernist.

In 1350 B. C. this man left to posterity his well developed plan of conducting secret or private schools for the superior education and preparation of men and women for the parts they must take in life to be the **lights of civilization**, the pathfinders of new and untrammeled roads to health and success, the leaders of advancing humanity.

His own descendants and the graduates of his secret schools in the Palace on the banks of the Nile wended their way into other lands—Jerusalem, Persia, India and Greece, and in each of these lands the great work continued, always under the same symbol, with the same banner, the same standard and the same cry: "Ad rosam per crucem, ad crucem per rosam!" **To the rose by way of the cross, to the cross by way of the rose!**



MEANING OF THE NAME AND SYMBOL

The brotherhood of the **Rosy Cross** (Latin, **Rosae Crucis**), as the organization has been officially known for so many centuries, derived its name from the early secret symbol of the society. That symbol is no longer either secret or mysterious. It served its purpose well in the early days through being veiled; today it is seen and known in too many lands and among too many millions of persons to be considered as a secret sign of any kind.

The symbol is composed of a Cross with a red rose upon its centre. A great many persons believe that the cross as a symbol had its origin in the early days of Christianity. That is a mistake. It can be found on the walls of tombs and temples in Egypt and may be seen on the two obelisks that were sent from Heliopolis to London and New York City. The cross has always had several meanings, closely related. To the mystics of Egypt or the Orient who were the first to use it, it meant man's body in either a posture of salutation to the rising sun (with arms held out in horizontal position) or man's body **being crucified** by the labors, trials, tests and sufferings of life. **No religious significance** was attached to the

* The true symbol of the Rosicrucians consists of a cross with but **ONE** red rose in the centre, usually with no green leaves or stems. Crosses with a garland of seven roses or a group of several roses, are only imitations of the true symbol.

cross until years after the crucifixion of The Christ, when the cross was adopted by the early church Fathers as a symbol of their new institution, and that cross adopted by them had a crucified body upon it. The mere fact that the Hebrews and other races had crucified their **criminals** upon crosses for years before The Christ was crucified, plainly shows that these peoples associated no religious ideas with the cross.

However, it was the mystics and sages of Amenhotep's schools in the Palace that evolved the Rosicrucian symbol by adding the red rose to the Cross. Perhaps it was Akhnaten himself, for it was he who loved roses and introduced the Persian rose into Egypt. The rose was made symbolical in the inner consciousness, the spirit, the **SOUL** of man. The fact that the rose gradually opened from a tightly closed bud into full bloom and expression and then slowly faded and drooped and passed out of sight, made itself suggestive of the soul of man which came into the youthful body imprisoned, slowly evolved to manifestation and beauty, and slowly weakened in its expression until it seemed to be no more. The evolution of the rose seemed to typify the **evolution of man's soul**. Years of observation convinced these sages that the tests and trials of life, the experiences, lessons learned and suffering endured, contributed to the evolution of the **soul**; to them it seemed that the soul of man was evolving through the experiences of the body. Since the cross had ever been to them the symbol of the body of man in its sufferings, they added the rose to the cross and created the symbol which has but one explanation. That is:

The Rose (soul) evolves and gains beauty and fragrance
while being crucified upon the Cross (the body).

From this symbol and the term Rosy Cross, we have the term **Rosicrucian** as the English form of the name of the organization which now exists in every civilized land. Through the experiences of life, man's soul and understanding evolves; through the united experiences of thousands of members in one brotherhood the soul of the group of persons or even of a nation, evolves and becomes more potent in the direction of personal and national affairs.

That is the explanation of the symbol and the name. It is age-old, honored, respected and glorified in every clime, and in its name has mankind achieved and succeeded beyond his fondest dreams.

There is no religious, or sectarian creed associated with the symbol and its application, and Jews and Gentiles and those of every religious denomination are associated together in the Rosicrucian organization, working together for one great aim—the redemption of man from ignorance, and freedom from the enslaving obstacles which hold man in the bonds of ill-health, misfortune and unhappiness.

FASCINATING STORY OF THE BROTHERHOOD'S GROWTH

From out of Egypt and Palestine as well as Greece came the great **LIGHT** which in many lands was protected by the secret brotherhood. Under various names—but always with the same ideals and standards—the brotherhood operated. We found them referred to as the Therapeuti, The Essenes, the Silent Brothers, and many other names in the middle ages, when secret or **private** schools of advanced learning were forbidden. Just as the pagan priesthood of ancient Egypt finally cast into oblivion all that the Amenhotep IV and his brotherhood had accomplished in that land and brought the great darkness over the nation again, so other priesthoods in the middle ages succeeded in forcing the state to forbid the spread of the awakening consciousness in the peoples who sought The Light. But ever did the work continue, and the time came in the 13th century when in every part of Europe as well as in the Orient, the fraternity of the Rosy Cross was a mighty factor in the social, political and economical development of nations.*

* Historians of all ages have credited the Rosicrucians with having had considerable direct and indirect influence upon the advancement of national interests and in hundreds of cases the promoters of vanquished issues have blamed their defeat upon the high idealism of the Rosicrucians.

In certain long established centres of learning, national and international headquarters were maintained. Thus as Toulouse, in southern France, a seat of advancement in all learning, the Rosicrucians maintained one of the oldest centres of their activities. To this centre came the philosophers, educators and leaders of human activity from all parts of the world, and it was here that many of the world's most important reforms and innovations had their birth.**

THE STRANGE STORY OF CHRISTIAN ROSENKREUZ

In the thousands of references that one may find about the Rosicrucians throughout the histories and encyclopaedias of every nation, there is no stranger story than that of Christian Rosenkreuz in Germany.

According to the average encyclopaedia of today, the mystery of this man is beyond comprehension. Nearly all of these encyclopaedias have taken their story from the original story told in one of Europe's first encyclopaedias, published in the days when the Rosicrucian fraternity was still veiling much of its history. That present day American encyclopaedias should continue to publish that story in the light of thousands of books which contain the actual facts, indicates the indifferent attitude that one finds expressed in these volumes on many subjects not commonly known.

According to the erroneous story told, a group of scientists opened a tomb in Cassel, Germany, in the 17th century and there found the body of Christian Rosenkreuz, the former **founder** of the Rosicrucian fraternity, along with papers and documents for the continuance of the organization hundreds of years after his transition. The real facts are that there was no **one** person known as Christian Rosenkreuz (which latter name means, in German, **Rosy Cross**) and such a character was certainly not the **founder** of the Rosicrucian Fraternity. However, there are many popular writers on the subject of Rosicrucianism today, and a Rosicrucian fellowship in America which believes that the **whole** Rosicrucian order started in Germany at the hands of Christian Rosenkreuz, and **he** (!) is named by these persons as their beloved founder and originator of the form of Rosicrucian teachings they present. The incongruity and inconsistency of these statements do not seem to dawn upon those who adhere to this ancient absurdity. A **man** who never existed as the personality attributed to him could not have founded or originated an organization that was in existence hundreds of years before the time given as the date of his foundation work.

Who, or what, was Christian Rosenkreuz? This is the question that was asked several hundred years ago when a series of books or pamphlets were issued in Germany informing the "learned of Europe" that the Rosicrucian fraternity was again active in the lands of that continent. These books—among them the renowned **Fama Fraternitatis**—were issued under the fictitious name of **Christian Rosenkreuz**, or "C. R. C." Investigations revealed that the books were the work of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulem. Bacon had become the international chief of the Rosicrucian fraternity as had other eminent characters in the past; and he proceeded to enlarge the activities of the Order and bring it into conservative publicity through the issuance of books credited to a fictitious name that told every student of the Rosicrucian teachings that the real author was a **Christian Brother of the Rosy Cross**.

The same name or the initials "C. R. C." had been used centuries before. In the year 908 B. C. the name was used by Zoroaster while he was Supreme Magus of the mystic fraternities of his time. In 1290 A. D. the same name was used again in connection with an event similar to that which occurred in Cassel, Germany, in 1604. All who are familiar with even the superficial facts of the origin and historical activities of the Rosicrucian fraternity or Order, know that **a man, one man** having a genuine name of Christian Rosenkreuz, did not found or originate the Order in Germany in any century. Emphasis is put upon this fact with reiteration here because of its extreme importance to American persons who are seeking the facts.

** Toulouse was ever the centre of ethical culture and many of the ancient temples of arcane knowledge remain as monuments to this day.

SIR FRANCIS BACON'S REGIME

Lord Bacon is generally acknowledged to have done more for the universal growth of the Rosicrucian Order than any other man since the middle ages. He found the fraternity and its hundreds of branches in Europe and the Orient, an excellent channel for the important changes which he wished to bring about in the practical affairs of men's lives.

Not only did he revise the activities of the Order in Germany, where he made Valentine Andreae his Deputy, but he sent his brother and other associates to every part of Europe to lecture and propagate the work openly among the learned and sincere. He it was who lifted the obscure veil that enshrouded the fraternity, and daring the criticisms of state, ensconced it with the halo of glory to which Lord Lytton referred in his famous novel about the Rosicrucians, called *Zanoni*. At once the Order attracted to itself the interest of nobility as well as the men and women of the average walks of life, and like a tidal wave sweeping over some level land, the prestige and good works of the Rosicrucians reached every land.

Before his transition, and while Emperor of the Order in Europe, Bacon made plans for the spread of the work to America. This he did by writing a story called *The New Atlantis, or the House of Solomon*. This was, presumably, a story of a newly discovered land in the Atlantic where everything was done according to Rosicrucian standards. But in the story was contained the famous Bacon secret code which he also used in writing the Shakespearean plays and many other books now found to be his work.

THE COMING OF THE ROSICRUCIANS TO AMERICA

In the code used by Bacon, instructions were given for the establishment of a national centre on the shores of America. For years the strange plans in this book puzzled those who read it and knew not the ideas back of it. Then in 1693 the plans began to materialize and in all parts of Europe men and women came together in Rosicrucian sessions to select those who were to carry out the Baconian plan. Finally in the fall of 1693 a group of several hundred men with their families were decided upon and they joined together in England and Holland.

Men for the plan were selected according to their professions and trades. All men had to be able to contribute to the knowledge and experience required, and in the winter of 1693 the group of Rosicrucians set sail for America in their own chartered boat, the *Santa Maria*.

No more fascinating story of pilgrimage is told in history than this.* They travelled under the auspices of Bacon's former Lodge in London, the Rosicrucian Lodge known as *Philadelphia***, and they carried with them rare manuscripts, records, scientific devices and implements such as had not been brought to America before.

Early in the year of 1694 they arrived at a small village and at once began to build their own buildings and homes and they finally cooperated with the others who were there in laying out a large city. To this place they gave the name of their former English Lodge, Philadelphia. It has been commonly understood that the quakers, who were in that city in small numbers, gave the name to the city, but records preserved in the historical museum in Philadelphia and many other records preserved in Christ Church in Philadelphia show that the Rosicrucians gave the name to the city.

Parts of their first buildings in Philadelphia still remain in what is now known as Fairmont Park, where one may stroll along *Mystic Lane*. In other parts of Pennsylvania many of the original buildings remain in excellent condition.

* See for instance, the book by Julius Sachse, containing their own records of this famous pilgrimage, and other books in the Congressional Library on the early mystics of Pennsylvania.

** It was common practise to name the Rosicrucian Lodges after some of the Greek or Oriental cities. This custom still prevails and the Greek word *Philadelphia* was very popular with the Rosicrucians.

WHAT ROSICRUCIANS DID FOR AMERICA

Soon after their settlement the Rosicrucians demonstrated to the world their highly practical system of furthering the best interests of mankind.

They established one of the first and largest paper mills, bookbinding plants and printing establishments. Then they built America's first astronomical observatory, where Brother Rittenhouse made many of the most famous astronomical observations recorded in history. It was in their community that they established the first scientific academy, the first ethical and cultural schools, the first free schools for children along the higher lines of study and the first non-sectarian schools of philosophy and theology.

It was here that Peter Miller, the Master of the Rosicrucian Lodge, translated the Declaration of Independence so that all foreigners in America might read it, and it is known that the final copy was engrossed and executed in the art department of the Rosicrucian organization. The first church organs made in America were built here and the first botanical gardens were established here. Hundreds of America's first educational plans and institutions had their origin in this community and records are replete with the activities which demonstrated how **practical** the organization is in all its interests in man's behalf.

AMERICA'S FIRST EMINENT ROSICRUCIANS

Most of the leading characters in that Rosicrucian body became historically famous as one soon finds in examining the tombstones in the old cemetery. Name after name is familiar to the student of American history.*

It was Benjamin Franklin, an officer of the work in later years, who carried out the educational ideas of Bacon and spread the library idea into popular form. Thomas Jefferson, the President of the United States, was an officer of the Rosicrucian body and before his transition he wrote a mystical interpretation of the Bible along Rosicrucian lines and secured an appropriation from Congress to have it printed—a most unusual procedure which has never been equalled.

The work of the first Rosicrucians spread rapidly throughout the colonies in the first hundred years and laid a foundation for it from coast to coast.

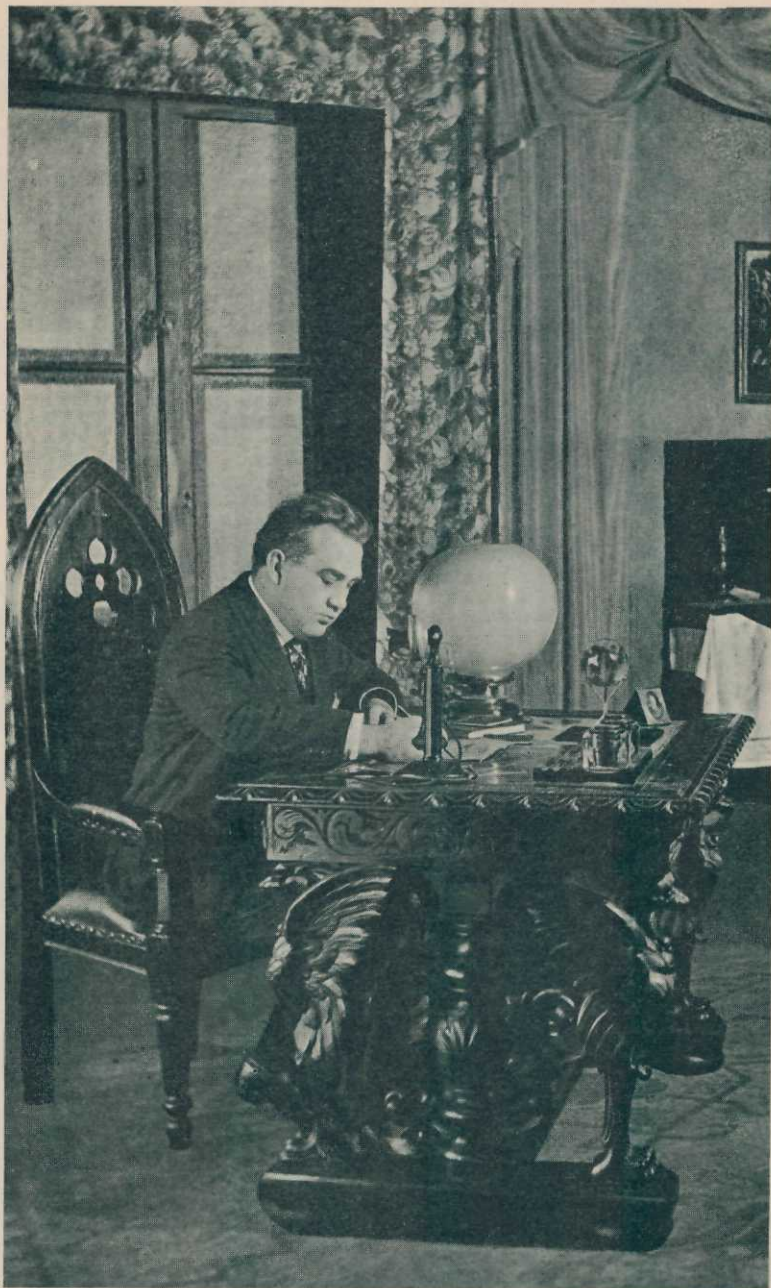
In the meantime the Order in Europe became widely organized and highly advanced in its scientific application of nature's laws and principles to man's immediate benefits.

THE PRESENT ORDER IN AMERICA

Just before the great world war, the leading Rosicrucian bodies of Europe decided upon a complete real location of Rosicrucian Jurisdictions throughout the world. Many congresses were held and various Supreme Councils assembled in many cities. During all these years the continent of America was still under the direction of European jurisdictions. The new plans were to make it a separate jurisdiction.

In the summer of 1909, Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, former President of the New York Institute of Psychical Research and editor of several metaphysical and occult magazines, went to Toulouse, France, the ancient seat of the Rosicrucian activities of Europe and for the past hundred years or more, the meeting place for continental Rosicrucian congresses.

* A very important point must be mentioned here. Some students of the Rosicrucian history discovered among early American records the name of one Dr. Randolph as a Rosicrucian and they have stated that he organized the first Rosicrucian society in America. They claim that Dr. Randolph "established the first Rosicrucian body in America, in the year 1856." They are wholly unaware of the facts. Randolph did try to establish a separate, personal and independent society, which failed. This was precisely 163 years after the real Order was established in Philadelphia and still active in America.



H. SPENCER LEWIS, F. R. C. Ph. D.,
IMPERATOR OF THE AMORC OF NORTH AMERICA
MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE WORLD
LEGATE OF THE ORDER OF FRANCE

There, under the auspices of the French jurisdiction, the Order **Rose Croix**, a special group of high officers, initiated Dr. Lewis into the international organization and appointed him their Legate to establish a separate Jurisdiction of the Order for America.

Previous to this, many prominent Americans had been initiated into the Order in France, England and Germany, while traveling abroad, and all had been advised that in time the Order in America would be one of the largest of all the Jurisdictions.

THE GREAT AMERICAN CONCLAVE

Dr. Lewis returned from Europe and began at once his official activities. In the early fall of 1909 he held conferences with a number of those who had been initiated abroad and who were familiar with the rules and regulations of the foreign jurisdictions and acquainted with the Supreme Officers abroad.

The task of translating into English the many documents and papers of authority, required months of labor, and the formation of a foundation committee necessitated many interviews and private council meetings. Twelve men and women had been placed on the foundation committee by Dr. Lewis before the end of 1909, and thereafter many months were spent by these persons assisting in the preparation of literature, a new and typically American constitution for the Order, and the development of many new features that had not been introduced into the American form of Rosicrucianism. All this had to be done in great secrecy until a certain stage of the work was reached.

When this point was attained there came to Dr. Lewis the first of the many messengers of the Order in Europe. This first representative was Dr. May Banks-Stacey, wife of Colonel Stacey, and a descendant of the Cromwell's and D'Arcy's of France. A woman of wide travel and many affiliations, she came as a special legate of the Order in India. She brought to Dr. Lewis and the foundation Committee the final papers of preparation for the great work, and the Jewel of Authority, a rare official emblem, and valuable treasures from the archives of the Oriental headquarters. During her stay in America she acted as the first *Matre* of the Order.

THE GREAT NATIONAL CONVENTION

In the summer of 1916 the work of the Order had spread so rapidly in new sections of America and so many new branches were in operation that a national convention of all officers and delegates was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for one week. At this convention the principal officers of every American branch and the delegates from every state were present. Sessions were held during the day and evenings with lectures, demonstrations and discussions.

It was at this great convention that a committee composed of leading characters in many other fraternal organizations, devoted their time to a study of the national constitution of the Order as it had been worked out by the supreme officers in the years preceding. On the last day of the Convention the Committee read the proposed constitution and it was adopted, paragraph by paragraph by the delegates assembled. Other matters of great importance to the Order were definitely settled at this convention and at the one held in New York in the summer of 1918.

Part Two

AMERICA'S FIRST ROSICRUCIANS

The first Rosicrucians to come to America and bring their wisdom to this new country were those who journeyed to the Pacific Coast early in the seventeenth century and deposited there the "foundation stone" and documents of the last C. R. C. of Europe.

But the first group of the Fraternity to come to America and establish the work came in a specially chartered boat in 1694. They left all parts of Europe under the direction of the Master Kelpius, in accordance with the plans made by Sir Francis Bacon, the European Imperator of the Fraternity, and published in the secret book called "The New Atlantis" or the "House of Solomon."

They arrived at what is now known as Philadelphia and built many buildings, "temples" and schools and gave America its first knowledge of the secret laws of nature. Parts of the original buildings still remain in Fairmount Park, and elsewhere, and America's historical records are replete with facts about the excellent work accomplished by the Fraternity in behalf of the freedom and advancement of this country*. Many Americans prominent in the early history and foundation of this country, such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, were associated with this great work.

As one prominent American newspaper man recently wrote: "It is one of the joys of America's growth as well as prides of her history to have had the influence and power of the Rosicrucian Fraternity." And years later, when the Fraternity made its public Revelation of its existence, the newspapers made much favorable comment from coast to coast. For instance, the *Pittsburg Leader* said: "This is a distinct honor which will be understood later on."

THE ROSICRUCIANS IN THE WORLD TODAY

In every civilized land the Fraternity is in operation today, using the ancient Latin name ANTIQUUM ARCANUM RUBEAE ROSAE ET AUREAE CRUCIS, or the abbreviated English form, Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (AMORC).

All of the Grand and local Lodges of the Fraternity are affiliated with and form an essential part of the International Congress.

The world is divided into definite jurisdictions and the largest of these is that of North America, with its Supreme Council, Supreme Master and Administration Building located at San Jose, California, after having been located for a period of years in the East and then on the Pacific Coast.

The work of the Order is still conducted along the traditional lines, and men and women of acceptable qualifications are admitted to its membership by invitation**.

THE SECRET ARCHIVES OF ROSICRUCIAN KNOWLEDGE

It is not strange that every seeker for arcane knowledge sooner or later comes face to face with the fact that he must turn to the Archives of the Rosicrucian Fraternity for the more profound laws, principles and

* Many interesting facts regarding the early American Rosicrucians and their influence on American foundations are given in the very precise writings of Watson, America's most careful analyst and historian. Other facts, records, documents, and relics will be found in the historical museum of Philadelphia.

** It is an ancient practice of the Fraternity to invite desirable or sincere seekers to unite with members. For centuries in Europe it has been considered a distinct honor to be invited to come within the ranks by being handed an application form.

manifestations of nature's secrets. It is a notable fact, testified to by every research student along every line of specific instruction, that each avenue of search, each path of enlightenment, and each source of unbiased knowledge brings the enquiring mind to the original and inexhaustible goal of the Rosicrucian college.

Whether we inquire into the true and tested principles of psychology, the established and dependable laws of health and long life, the fundamentals of religion and philosophy, or the attainment of mastership in life's problems, we find that constant reference, quotations and recommendations by thousands of eminent writers in all ages bring us eventually to the reserved teachings of the Rosicrucian schools. There probably never was and never will be any other single source and fountain of arcana, universal knowledge equal to the present systems of this organization.

THE ORIGIN OF ROSICRUCIAN KNOWLEDGE

Since the dawn of civilization the specialized knowledge and wisdom of man has been carefully preserved. How often we are astounded at the marvelous things known to or accomplished by the ancients. How many times are we impressed with the fact that the ancients possessed rare knowledge, far beyond the knowledge of today, which we discern in small dribblets of wisdom gathered from their writings. It has been believed for ages that the wisdom, the rare, secret knowledge possessed by the Master minds of the past has been carefully preserved. But by whom? And where?

In all ages there have been the few—the specially learned and wise, the master philosophers, the initiates—who have had access to the arcana, secret and vital principles of all knowledge, and these persons have carefully concealed such knowledge from the unworthy, the evil-minded and the selfish. Such persons have constituted the school of advanced wisdom and their organization has been known by many names but always under the direction of one Great Brotherhood. Now we find this knowledge preserved and taught through the channels of the Rosicrucian Order, one of the original conservators of such knowledge.

WHAT DID THE ROSICRUCIANS TEACH?

It is the general belief of the investigators of the Rosicrucian teachings that the members of the Fraternity were experts and masters in the subjects of the transmutation of base metals into pure gold, the prolonging of life, the immediate cure of disease, the performance of seeming miracles, the control of nature's forces, the mastership of life's problems, and were directors of future events. And they have always been credited with possessing the correct knowledge of God, life, transition and immortality.

Many books and papers refer to the Rosicrucians as Alchemists and Hermetic Physicians. The truth of the matter is that the Rosicrucians of all ages not only devoted their time in laboratories to transmuting metals, but a greater part of their time was spent in transmuting the baser elements of human nature into the pure gold of health, happiness and prosperity. This was their higher form of alchemy. Their general teachings and activities were devoted to overcoming the obstacles in life which kept progressive men and women from attaining individual heights. Therefore their teachings include the secret facts of nature about health; the source and nature of the vital force of life; how it could be retained and increased, and how disease of all kinds might be prevented or cured. They taught also the nature of many of the strange universal forces which surrounded man and which few even today suspect as existing.

THE MENTAL POWERS OF THE ROSICRUCIANS

However, one needs to read only a few books about the Rosicrucians, such as Lord Lytton's "Zanoni" and Marie Correlli's "Life Everlasting," to see that the greatest power developed by the Rosicrucians was the mental power they were able to use.

The Rosicrucians taught—esoterically—that every thing in the world, from the smallest cell in a living or non-living body to the rocks in distant mountains, could be affected by an unsuspected mental power which can be developed by their formulas. They pointed out how they could make their thoughts become concrete realities; how they could transmit thoughts from one place to a more distant place; they demonstrated their ability to make people think and act in accordance with law, and to have nature's forces obey their wills. All the seeming miracles of ancient Babylon, Persia, India and the Orient generally they reduced to simple processes. They sought to become mighty in the power to foresee, to hold back the progress of undesirable conditions, or set into motion newer and more favorable conditions.

All this they taught each selected student to do for himself. They did not perform miracles for one another, for they taught that each person possesses a power and a faculty to direct his own affairs more efficiently than anyone else could do it for him*.

THE TESTS OF HUNDREDS OF YEARS

As the ages passed, the teachings of the Rosicrucians were tested by newer knowledge at the hands of later Master teachers and workers. From century to century the Rosicrucian teachings were amended, strengthened, improved and widened in their scope until they now embrace knowledge in every scientific field, in every art, profession, industry and business activity of modern times.

WHO ARE THEY TODAY

The Rosicrucians of today are practical men and women, occupying high governmental positions in every land, leaders in all forms of education, in schools, colleges and universities. They include clergymen of every denomination—theological leaders and eminent international authorities; physicians and scientists of very high grade; lawyers, judges, bankers, musicians, artists, inventors and heads of big corporations; newspaper editors and owners; and men and women in every humble walk of life who are more successful and prosperous, happy and masterful than the average person. No one is ever denied admission because of lack of college or academic education. Moral character and sincerity of desire are the only qualifications considered.

All agree in their enthusiastic comment upon this one point: The knowledge given to them in their studies and through their connection with the Fraternity has enabled them to round out their own lives, and more efficiently carry on their life work, in a manner almost impossible without the benefits derived from the SPECIALIZED knowledge they now possess.

THE GREAT WORK TODAY

Not only is the Great Work of the Fraternity still carried on in Europe and other lands, with periodic International and National congresses to unify the work throughout the world, but in America the organization is especially systematized and well founded.

The North American continent constitutes the largest single jurisdiction of the Fraternity which operates throughout the world under the name of AMORC. In the United States, Canada, Mexico and the dependencies of the United States, there are College, University and Lodge Branches, as well as study groups in every important city and town, with many reading rooms

* In this regard the Rosicrucians have ever been different from those schools or movements which merely state what can be done or has been done by past "Masters". The Rosicrucians teach each member precisely how to demonstrate individually, when and where required by personal conditions. It is for this reason that the Rosicrucians are called practical and not speculative workers and teachers.

and study halls always open to those who are associated with the work. National conventions have been held in the United States and hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles have appeared in the public press, within the last twenty years, referring to the unusual features offered by the Rosicrucian system of education and evolution.

THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMORC

It is no simple matter to present to the seeker or investigator a true picture revealing all the facts and minute details of so vast and vital an organization as that most popularly known as the Rosicrucian Fraternity. A thousand years ago the greatest masters of thought and pen pictures found it so. Sir Francis Bacon, while international chief of the various continental Rosicrucian organizations, found it necessary to write and have published a number of books under distinctive titles, adequately to reveal to the worthy seeker the real nature of the Fraternity.

Lord Bulwer Lytton resorted to a method typical of the means used before and after his time and wrote a novel called "Zanoni" in which he cleverly revealed the existence, teachings and activities of the Rosicrucians of his day. And we have had the writings from the pen of Marie Correlli, Shelly, Ainsworth and others in which the Rosicrucians are mentioned frankly and their beneficial teachings and endeavors beautifully expounded.

A thousand books in the past thousand years have mentioned the Fraternity or described the work of one or more of its great leaders. No organization in the world, aside from the Essenes and Therapeuti of the Orient has been so generally known for ages and yet evaded the skill of the writer's pen to do it justice. Perhaps this one feature alone is responsible for the classification of the Fraternity as an **exclusive** or "**secret**" society.

THOUSANDS ARE SEEKING—FEW ARE WORTHY

Thousands in every section of the world today are inquiring for and seeking after precisely what AMORC offers. We know this from the letters received daily from every part of the civilized world. Never before in the history of civilization has there been such an awakening to the higher things of life, and never has there been such a universal call for association with those who know and can reveal the many fundamental principles, laws and forces that make one man, or one woman, more healthy, successful, and happy than another.

The AMORC stands today, as did its ancient parent bodies, as one of the most vital, constructive, re-creative forces in the world devoted to the personal and national benefits of mankind. Because this is so, it has the endorsement, enthusiastic support and happy co-operation of men and women in every walk of life, in every profession, art and science, and in every civilized land of the world, who have been found worthy of admission.

Strangely, many of the modern encyclopedias continue to reprint the blind or veiled history of the Fraternity which appeared in "Chamber's Encyclopedia" many years ago, when the organization was so exclusively operated that it was thought to have passed out of existence. A notable exception—and there are a number—is a recent edition wherein our present **Imperator**, or Chief Executive of the AMORC, is mentioned as an authority on the subject and history of the Rosicrucians.

FAMOUS ROSICRUCIANS

It appears as a notable fact that in every country where great strides were made in civilization, the historians of the time made reference to the evolutionary effect of the Rosicrucians and their teachings upon the people as a preliminary step to the advances made. Many are the references in books dealing with chemistry, medicine and surgery, music and astronomy, giving credit to the profound knowledge of the Rosicrucians and the important effect of that knowledge upon the advancement of these sciences.

To suggest even a partial list of the eminent characters who have been notable figures in the Fraternity would take many more pages than I have

at disposal in this book. Suffice it to say that the Rosicrucian Fraternity traces its real and traditional history so far back into the past ages that it is lost in profound mystery, but ever sheds around it a glory of achievement for its members and a wondrous light of attainment for the nations. Today the spirit of their great work carries on throughout the world in the work of the AMORC. What that work is and what it can mean to you will be explained on the following pages.

THE PRESENT-DAY ROSICRUCIANS—THE AMORC

The AMORC, as an international organization, is **not a relic of some ancient Rosicrucian Lodge** of some **ONE** of the foreign branch jurisdictions. It is an authorized continuation of the Order as it has grown into modern times, and is a logical, natural and systematic development and continuation of the Rosicrucian principles and ideals as laid down in the past by the greatest of the Rosicrucian leaders and evolved by the master-teachers of the ages intervening.

WHY THE FRATERNITY GROWS

An illustration of the importance of this fact may be seen in the comment of thousands who have pursued the present-day teachings of the AMORC, which comment may be summarized in the words of a former high officer of another school of philosophy and metaphysics in America: "Man has evolved in the past several hundred years through definite cycles and stages of mental and spiritual awakening and comprehension, just as he has advanced in scientific achievement and attainment. Those thoughts, those principles and those ideals which were vital and guiding to him **five hundred or even one hundred years ago** are obsolete now, some even **impracticable**. Other schools of thought, systems of instruction, courses of practice in life **which have not evolved and advanced** step by step with man's evolution are **passee** today. AMORC is notable for its **advancement** and its foresight in keeping **many steps ahead** of man's present stage in civilization, so that today the Rosicrucian teachings and benefits offered by the AMORC constitute a goal to approach, an ideal to hold before us—a true leadership to follow."

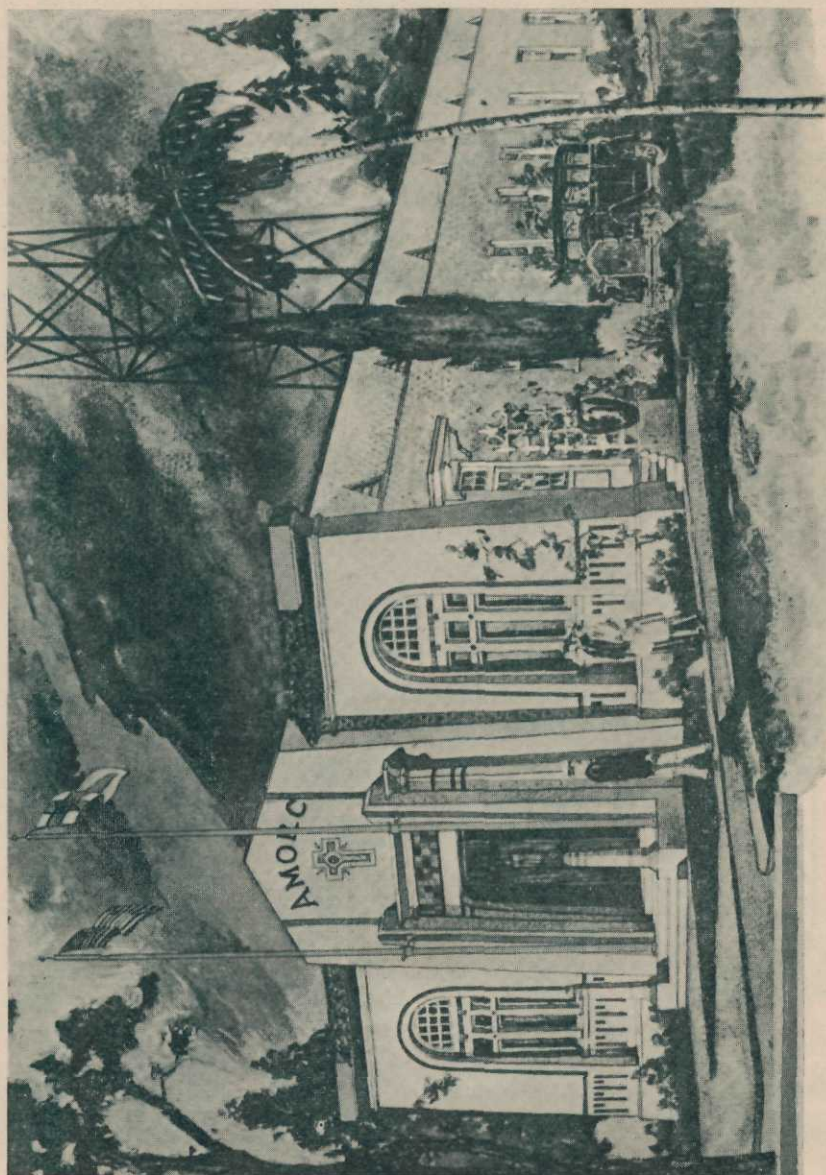
NOT THE TEACHINGS OF ONE PERSON

There are systems of philosophical and higher-thought instruction in the world today which were outlined or prepared by one or more founders, "discoverers" or leaders—systems which were prophetic and ultra-modern in **their day**—but because the founders of such systems made no provision for the advancement of the teachings, or the gradual growth and evolution of the system, they stand today as monuments of good in **the past** but inadequate and inefficient today.

The child of today is taught in school, in high school, and in special courses, those subjects which were select and advanced subjects for the evolved adult of a hundred years ago. To adhere to the philosophic or scientific teachings **of the ancients**, no matter how remarkable they may have been in their day, would be equivalent to teaching and promulgating dead languages as a vital factor in our modern life.

MOST ADVANCED OF ALL TEACHINGS

The AMORC of today preserves and presents in the most impressive and helpful manner every law and principle that was known to and used by the ancient Rosicrucians and which made them famous as the forerunners of all scientific, occult, metaphysical and practical schools making for man's greater growth and development. Each year of the past five hundred years or more has seen additions made to those fundamental teachings. Each month of the past hundred years has seen the ancient system of instruction and cooperative benefits improved, modernized and advanced.



ADMINISTRATION AND RADIO BROADCASTING BUILDING
IN THE HEART OF ROSICRUCIAN PARK, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

During the past twenty years, the evolutionary growth of the plan of AMORC has been phenomenal. In every field of endeavor, in every art, science, and domain of thought, AMORC has taken great steps forward until today its knowledge of certain laws of nature, activities of the human mind, powers of personal forces, manifestations of principles and possibilities of unsuspected agencies, is far in advance of man's general evolution and greatly in the lead of all other schools or movements.

A GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

In other words, AMORC, typifying the Rosicrucian spirit, represents today the very soul of the Rosicrucian Fraternity of all ages—the most advanced and practical guide or movement in man's behalf. This has been no simple achievement. No organization but that which lives with the spirit of true Rosicrucianism—fearless, dauntless, and mighty in its own powers—could have survived in the past decades the many obstacles to growth and the insistent attacks of its natural enemies—the enemies of all progress. None but the present Emperor of the AMORC, Harve Spencer Lewis, F. R. C., Ph. D., could have accomplished the tremendous task set for him when he accepted the obligation and duties of his office for the purpose of re-establishing the Fraternity in modern times as Bacon was commissioned to do in the seventeenth century in Europe, and others before him.

SOME ROSICRUCIAN SYMBOLS



**THE EGYPTIAN
CARTOUCHE**



**THE R. C.
TRIANGLE**



**THE
ROSY CROSS**



**SEAL OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL**

Part Three

THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER OF THE FRATERNITY

As one may sense from what has been said on the preceding pages, the Rosicrucian Fraternity ever was, and still is, a very distinctive body so far as fraternal organizations go. In days gone by one of its outstanding features was its recognition of the equality of the sexes. This does not seem exceptional today, but in this Fraternity women have ALWAYS been eligible for every benefit or office, and the organization points with pride to the fact that it was the first international organization to assist women to compete with men efficiently in all arts and sciences. The wholesomeness and broadness of its work permits men and women to share alike in its benefits.

The absence of sex distinction has resulted in another impressive feature. Men and their wives, mothers, daughters and sons are found associated in the studies and work. It is a delightful scene to witness couples and families of from three to ten persons, young and old, attending lectures or studying home lessons together just as they go to church or theatre together without separation or disqualification because of sex!

TEACHINGS ARE NOT SPECULATIVE

The next important distinction between this Fraternity and other Brotherhoods is due to its **practical** and **operative** nature. It is not and never has been a **speculative** body or a school of **theoretical** philosophy. This statement is not intended to be a criticism of those fraternal movements, schools, or cults which deal exhaustively with speculative philosophies or metaphysical theories. It is because these things have some sort of place in our lives that they exist. The AMORC of today devotes its time and efforts to those things which have to do with the **practical affairs** of life HERE and NOW!

Convinced of the immortality of the soul, and referring to this conviction often in its teachings, it uses the law of laws which makes the soul immortal to aid the individual in attaining health and power on this plane of existence. *Demonstrating all the laws that relate to our existence in a spiritual, divine and metaphysical sense, the demonstrations are made in such manner, and accompanied by such lectures, as will enable the student to apply the same laws in meeting obstacles, trials and temptations of this life—daily and hourly.*

GUIDING THE SEEKER TO MASTERSHIP

The obligations of each individual to God and His Decrees are not evaded or minimized. But his further obligations to those dependent upon him, to his fellow man and himself, are clearly pointed out and demonstrated. Even more than this, he is taught, carefully and step by step, how he may efficiently, successfully and joyfully meet these earthly, material, **practical** obligations and rise to power and mastership. Such practical work is the keynote of the AMORC teachings and practices.

The ancient Rosicrucians were popularly known as chemists, alchemists and scientists, as well as humanitarian workers. It is notable that the most advanced of them were not found in isolated habitations, living as hermits, giving to the world nothing more than an illuminated book of inspiring philosophy. Rather were they found living in accessible places, adjoining laboratories and schools, laboring with the problems of medicine, surgery, chemistry, astronomy and similar subjects.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

True, much is said of their alchemy and the experiments with the transmutation of the base metals into gold. But these experiments were

made not for the purpose of securing wealth alone, but to demonstrate, prove and discover various laws of Nature which have an important bearing upon every phase of life. Many of the modern sciences today trace valuable aids to the practical work performed by these devoted workers.

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Wherever civilization was in the making and progress in the arts, sciences, literature and work-a-day activities was most evident, there the influence, guidance and contributions of the Rosicrucians were most evident. Today this distinctive feature of **practicability** is augmented by the co-operative service spirit which is emphasized in an unique manner. With members in every trade, profession, art and industry, and in every walk of life, located in every large city and every fair-sized town in the United States, for example, the close association, the mutual understanding, the universal pledge to render service at every opportunity, results in a personal benefit to each member that was not possible in the days of old. Thus we see that from many angles the AMORC is a distinctive organization, but the following additional features are important also.

NON-SECTARIAN AND TOLERANT

The AMORC is absolutely non-sectarian in its teachings and practices, and free from sex and race limitations. It recognizes the **universality** of the brotherhood of mankind. It takes cognizance of the fact that we are NOT all created alike except in soul essence and Divine Consciousness; but this very **exception** is the keynote of its broad, tolerant, and sympathetic operations.

WHY WE ARE NOT EQUAL

Some are born to start their progress through **following**, while others are born to develop certain abilities through **leadership**. Some are born to begin their career through **serving**, others are born to materialize the needs of many through **mastership**. Some are born to attain power through temporary labor, others are born to suffer for a while the responsibility or share the blessings of wealth and leisure. The Rosicrucian Fraternity seeks to make real leaders of men and women and limits its membership only to those who are truly worthy of leadership.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Whatever may be our station in life, some cause has made it so. "But," says the knowing Rosicrucian, "these stations in life are to serve us, to teach us; no constructive Law and no cruel hand of fate ordains that we **shall not rise** above and evolve from the station in which we are born, and every law of nature is at our command to serve us to learn the lesson of our present situation and turn this into a stepping stone to rise higher. It is our duty to lift our eyes higher; it is our bounden obligation to help each other on The Path to health, success, and Mastership."

NO SECTARIAN CREED

With a universal brotherhood which has its devout students and workers also in China, Japan, India, Persia and other Oriental countries; with sincere and enthusiastic men and women in countries of every creed and race, and with every form of creed or religious belief, sectarian teachings would **be impossible**. Any system of metaphysical, occult or mystical teaching based upon sectarian principles **cannot be universal** and cannot, therefore, be **Rosicrucian** in spirit.

A **firm conviction** of the existence of a Supreme Being, Great Architect, Divine Mind or Omnipotent intelligence, is **absolutely necessary**, however, on the part of any applicant for membership in the AMORC.

RELATION TO OTHER ROSICRUCIAN BODIES

Because of the antiquity of the Fraternity, and because its name and symbol has ever typified the spirit of profound research and arcane teachings, the word "Rosicrucian" has become synonymous with all that is **learned, profound, and arcane**. For this reason the word has been freely used to designate teachings or discourses that are uncommon and inspiring.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

There are a few private, small and limited societies or groups of philosophical students in Europe and America and perhaps elsewhere which are simply devoted to arcane research and which use the term "Rosicrucian" or its equivalent to indicate **their high standard of thinking**, but such "societies" or "fellowships" are not related to the international AMORC, nor do they claim to be a part of this Rosicrucian ORDER, nor have they the full graded course of instruction or system used by AMORC.

All of the authentic organizations throughout the world using the name or symbol of the ancient Rosicrucians are, however, worthy and inspiring movements; nearly all of them are allied in fraternal bonds with AMORC, such as the Grand Lodge of AMORC of Great Britain and those in Denmark, Holland, Africa, China, India, Germany, Spain, Russia, Switzerland, and the East Indies; others are branch bodies of the principal Grand Lodges in many cities and lands.



Part Four

A "NATIONAL LODGE" FOR HOME STUDY MEMBERS

The North American Jurisdiction of the Fraternity offers some special features to seekers not found in all the foreign Jurisdictions.

As will be understood from the statements on preceding pages, the work of the organization in various parts of the country is carried on in Lodges under the supervision of Grand Lodges. In such Lodges the accepted members were admitted into the Order by an elaborate Initiation Ceremony, generally referred to as "Crossing the Threshold." This ceremony, Egyptian in form and with Egyptian costumes in Egyptian Temples of the Order, has been called the most beautiful of all ceremonies coming down to us from antiquity in its pristine nature. It is never forgotten by any who pass through it. After such Initiation the members of a Lodge meet once a week in the Temple and receive the higher weekly discourses from the Master of the Temple who carries them through a completely graded course of instruction week after week. Such lecture-sessions are in tiled Lodges and members are admitted only upon presenting the proper pass words and grips. Such Lodges are located in the principal cities of North America.

A NEW PLAN FOR AMERICA

At one of the national conventions of the Order held in this country the Grand Master of New York presented a plan to the delegates for the establishment of a "National Lodge" which would invite members from any section of the North American Jurisdiction who could not find it possible to attend the sessions of a local Lodge.

The proposal was discussed and voted upon and finally adopted. It permitted the Supreme Lodge of the Order for North America to establish what might be called an extension course of personal, private instruction in the teachings of the Fraternity upon a distinctly unique basis. The plan required several years to evolve and today this plan is being adopted in many foreign jurisdictions.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE INSTRUCTION NOT IN PRINTED FORM

This plan of private instruction at home is so unique and so new to this country that it must be explained so that it will not be compared with the so-called "correspondence courses" issued by correspondence schools in America, or to the issuance of pamphlet lessons by occult schools.

First of all it was recognized at once that such lessons as were to be sent to nation-wide students **COULD NOT BE IN PRINTED FORM**, for two excellent reasons: first, the time-honored injunction against any of the lessons of the Order in any land being printed or issued in printed form; secondly, the continued changes, improvements, amendments and modern adaptations of the teachings, would prevent their preparation in text-book or printed form of any permanent nature.

It is common for a correspondence school to send its students a set of text-books accompanied by monthly printed reading lessons analyzing the various chapters of the text-books. Year after year the same instructions, the same books and pamphlets, are sent to the thousands of students. This is possible in presenting such subjects as Law, English, Mathematics, History, or some of the sciences. It would not do, could not do, in presenting the teachings of the Rosicrucians; for such teachings are **continually** improving in subject matter, application to human affairs, and relation to recent discoveries by the Masters of the Order.

HOW THE LESSONS ARE PREPARED

So the first principle insisted upon by the Emperor of the Order was that the lessons to be sent to the home study members must be specially made and prepared from month to month to keep them up to the minute with the findings, discoveries and elaborate experiments on the part of the highest workers in the Order in this country and in other lands. That meant tremendous work, great cost and a staff of master teachers continually working upon the lessons.

It must be kept in mind that the Rosicrucian teachings have for ages been in advance of general science as taught in other schools and colleges. Discoveries announced from time to time by scientists outside of the Order and given to the world as startling discoveries, have been known to and taught by the Rosicrucians for years. But the world moves, and if the Rosicrucian experts in all fields of knowledge and investigation did not keep continually at their work, the general knowledge of the world would soon catch up to the teachings of the Rosicrucians and the one big power of the Order would soon weaken.

It is because the Order is able to keep its members educated in advance of the public mind, and give its members knowledge which outsiders cannot obtain, that it enables its Brothers and Sisters to overcome obstacles, meet oncoming conditions and prepare for future circumstances. The scientific world outside of the Order is just now trying to discover and evolve certain principles regarding health, disease and the prolonging of life which Rosicrucians have known and practiced for centuries. The same can be said regarding new "discoveries" in the sciences, arts and professions.

HOW THE LESSONS ARE ISSUED

Therefore the Emperor appointed a staff to prepare and issue the private lessons for those members who would be admitted in the "National Lodge."

Such members were to be INVITED to join by sending them, upon recommendation, an application blank. After the answers in this form were examined and an investigation made of the applicant's worthiness and sincerity, he or she was to be notified to prepare for the preliminary demonstrations of some fundamental lessons. A plan was finally adopted, based upon an old Egyptian system used by the early Rosicrucians, whereby such members arranged to set aside one part of some room—usually a sleeping room or "den" as their "study corner" or private "Lodge corner." By the use of private instructions in typewritten, personal form, the member prepared himself or herself at home for the first surprising lessons. The many thousands in America today who have used these instructions—men and women of all walks of life from the highest positions in the country to humble workers in the home—have found this home initiation one of the most astounding evidences of the arcane knowledge possessed by the Order. Thousands of letters on file prove that this initiation is precisely what each applicant seeks and what the Rosicrucians always taught was possible.

When a report of this initiation is sent to headquarters, it is examined and the member's requirements given careful attention. From then on he receives each week, in sealed and protected envelopes, a special lesson of the Rosicrucian teachings in typewritten form.

NATURE OF THE LESSONS

Such lessons are not mere speculative statements or points of philosophy, but carefully written and edited explanations of laws, beginning with the fundamental and simple ones, worded in language which any can understand, and illustrated by analogies, examples, common references and everyday experiences. Then several experiments are given to be practiced at convenient times throughout the week. In this way, week after week, month after month, special lessons, always being revised and amended, are sent to each member covering the whole system of private Rosicrucian teachings, developing faculties and powers the members never realized he or she possessed.

STUDENT'S PROGRESS GIVEN PERSONAL ATTENTION

Soon after passing through the preliminary and foundation lessons which enable the member to perform many remarkable demonstrations in his daily affairs, his standing is passed upon by several special instructors in consultation with the Master who has been directing his studies. If the member has made the proper progress he is assigned to a special high teacher for personal guidance thereafter.

From that time onward the lessons sent to the member each week have a personal touch. The member not only receives special personal letters from his teacher, but the correspondence between them on points of special knowledge, problems in life and helps required by the member in the affairs of his life, constitute a personal help equalled only by membership in a Lodge where the member meets his Master weekly.

Letters and telegrams come daily to headquarters from students to their teachers here asking for immediate and special help in illness, business problems, help for others, and guidance in times of perplexity. Such personal help sent at once is one of the remarkable points of service rendered by the Order to its members, and without any fees for such service.

In this way the "National Lodge" permits men and women in all walks of life, and with just ordinary school education, to have the full advantage of Rosicrucian membership regardless of where they live.

YOUR HOME A PRIVATE LODGE

Through the help that the AMORC offers men and women who are invited to join its ranks, the privacy of one's home may be utilized to bring into dominant usefulness the mental, physical and psychic powers of man.

With simple lessons which begin at the fundamentals, all that is strange and potent in man, all that is mighty and helpful around man, and all that is majestic and creative in the universe, is made plain and practical for the man or woman who would advance from the state of mere living to PRACTICAL MASTERSHIP.

The reading of books—no matter how learned or suggestive or enticing may be their titles—will not bring illumination, the understanding of nature's secret laws and principles. Books were **never written** to reveal **these** things. What is most earnestly sought and truly needed will not be found in books made and sold for profit, for money and selfish gain. The greatest truths, the vital truths, the practical, helpful truths, have never found their way into the public print of popular books, except in the case of the Scriptures and sacred writings. This was true in the days when the mystics, the philosophers and the religious devotees spent their lives compiling hand-written and illustrated manuscript on parchment, when secrets were carved on stone and arcane laws were engraved on the papyri of Egypt. From hand to hand, from mouth to mouth, from paper to paper, through the secret channels of a brotherhood, the great truths of all ages, the laws and principles discovered yesterday and today will pass from those who know to those who deserve to know; while the masses, caring little, seeking indifferently, unwilling to sacrifice time or pleasure, live on and on in the lowly state of darkness and superstition, happy in their folly perhaps, but enjoying none of the real pleasures of life, receiving none of its true gifts, and constantly subject to the evil that lies waiting to prey upon them with ill-health, disease, misfortune, poverty, oppression and ignominy.

ATTAINING HEALTH, PROSPERITY, HAPPINESS

These three elements are God's privileges to man—as a gift. But man knows not how to accept that which is offered. God and nature provide for man being well born—when the parents live as nature seeks to instruct—and from the moment of birth **HEALTH**, not **disease**, is man's most natural endowment from all the forces and elements of the universe.

PROSPERITY, too, is a natural acquisition, conforming to all the ethical, spiritual and beneficent laws of the universe. God made man in His own image, with the same faculties for perception, retention and reconstruction which vitalize the creative powers of the universe. All nature prospers and enjoys the abundance of all that exists, because nature is in harmony with the creative principle. Man alone, the highest creation of all, falls short of his rightful and privileged possessions because he does not always know how to live in harmony with all that creates, masters, controls, attracts and retains.

Prosperity is the result of attraction, poverty is the perfect manifestation of repulsion and negation. Not only is it true that **man is as he thinks**, but he enjoys and possesses that which he attracts. Laboring to earn that which one desires is not the only application of the law of demand, command, and supply; it is merely substituting man's crude method of exchanging labor for life's essentials. To deserve, either through labor, worthiness, sincerity of purpose, goodness of motive or altruism of intention, is but the first step. The next step is to **attract to one's self** that which is desired, and such attraction on the part of man is only possible when the inner self is permitted to function, to manifest and direct the forces of the outer self.

Just as the flower bends its body toward the sun, that it may more efficiently attract the sunlight, just as the multi-colored pansy lifts its head from the leaves of green to attract the admiration and attention of the passerby, so must the inner man, the mind within the soul, the heart within the self, lift itself above and beyond the common-place of life and attract, demand, and draw unto itself the abundance of this life, the riches of existence and the wealth of the universe.

Prosperity in material things is happiness, health, power to direct, power to control, power to **will** and **become**; assuring success of venture, attainment of ambitions, and the blotting out of all unhappiness, ill-health and misfortune. This prosperity is man's rightful, divine privilege, and naught but man's ignorance of laws and principles and misguided belief in the falsities of limiting creeds and dogmas keep him from being PROSPEROUS in every sense of the word.

THE ROSICRUCIAN WAY

Know the laws and principles! Study nature's secret teachings! Master fate's **decrees** which operate only with the unprepared, the undeveloped and the unknowing. Attune yourself with those who are successful and happy. Co-operate with nature's laws and revel in the power that comes into your being with the dawn of each day and abides like an unseen guest in your home, your office, your places of pleasure and meditation!

The successful man dominates the situations as they arise, directs with dynamic mind the course of his life in home, business and social affairs through knowing the laws that make possible a release of his inner powers and metaphysical abilities.

The brilliant woman is the woman who knows her possibilities, her dormant faculties and magnetic, mental strength, and uses every personal, subconscious, potent factor of her existence to raise herself to the supreme mastership of worldly matters.

KNOWING HOW means study and comprehension—and comprehension accompanied with meditation brings illumination and the power to use the laws thus studied.

Sitting in one's home, carefully examining the simple, PRIVATE lessons and testing the simple laws, one by one, is the process offered by the AMORC to those who seek this unusual method—more efficient than the reading of books which dare not tell the real facts, which never contain nature's secret laws and which are sold for any price you are willing to pay.

With lessons graded for each mastership, arranged in weekly subjects and experiences, made practical with principles and laws to use every day and in every way—this is the system the AMORC uses to help those who would make their home a sanctum of attunement, a home of private instruction, a place of uplift, development and mastership.

THE TRUTH UNVEILED TO THE MEMBERS

Without avoiding the facts that should be revealed, without veiling the truths so that none can comprehend, and without flowery words or elegant oratory which leave the student unacquainted with the fundamentals, the private, typewritten, **specially prepared lessons** of the AMORC are given to its members, its students, in a manner beyond description or realization unless one has lived with them for a few weeks and found the great changes, the wonderful powers that manifest in every affair of our earthly activities.

Remember, AMORC offers its carefully selected members not only the method and the plan of developing privately and effectively, but it offers its members all the advantages of association with those *master minds* of the laws of nature, who have held the reputation of being the most highly trained teachers, philosophers, scientists and workers in the uplift of the race of man—the Members of the Order Rosae Crucis—the Brethren of the Rosey Cross.

HOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN

The teachings, lessons and experiments constituting the Personal Home Instruction of the AMORC have been evolved through years of test and experience, improvements, additions, modifications and extensions.

NO COLLEGE EDUCATION NECESSARY

These interesting lessons begin with the very fundamentals of nature's laws as they relate to man and the universe, and explain and make plain all man's secret powers, possibilities and potential activities. The lessons are carefully graded. No college, academic or even high school education is necessary to understand the lessons, for they have been prepared by some of the best educators in various lands for the purpose of meeting the general mind.

NO MEMORIZING REQUIRED

Various educational boards have said that the system employed by AMORC in teaching and instructing is the ideal system, for it does not require memorizing, and through the examples, illustrations and experiments used the student comprehends and remembers without the least effort. Mere concentration upon words being read and a few moments' meditation upon each principle or law makes them stand out in the mind and consciousness for all time.

ARRANGED IN EASY STEPS

The lessons are arranged in Grades or Degrees, like unto classes or grades in a school. Each grade starts with an "initiation" or symbolical ceremony to be performed in the home by the member, alone, without any difficulty. These "Initiation Ceremonies" are for the purpose of illustrating and dramatizing some of the laws to be revealed in the lectures of that Grade. Such ceremonies conform to the beautiful ceremonies held in our Temples and are based upon the rituals used in the olden days to teach and illustrate certain principles. After the ceremonial night there follows a series of weekly lectures and experiments, constituting a course of study for that grade. The ceremonies can be performed very quietly and privately.

At the close of each series of the first three grades of lectures there is a self-examination and a written examination with answers to be sent to the Master of your class so that he can see wherein you have succeeded or failed to grasp a clear understanding of each point and may send you additional information. These examinations are easily passed if the lectures have been properly read—not laboriously studied.

The first three Grades constitute the fundamental ones in which the foundation for the whole work of the Order is laid, and give the member the basis for starting a new and greater career in life.

THE HIGHER TEACHINGS

Upon entrance into the Fourth Grade, the member receives his "card" or advanced, general membership in the Order and then he starts with the higher teachings and the further application of them in the Mastership of the greatest problems in life, reaching toward success, health, happiness and the goal of his ambitions.

There are three fundamental (and very important) Grades, consisting of thirty-six to forty weekly lectures, weekly experiments, daily tests and improvements, with much additional reading matter in the monthly bulletin (or magazine) called "The Mystic Triangle," and other matter. Then begin the higher grades, each having from twenty to fifty weekly lectures and special instructions.

MASTERY AT EACH STEP

There never was and never will be a more systematic, a more detailed and complete course of personal-development study than this. While it is true that it generally takes a few years to complete the whole course of three fundamental and the many succeeding higher grades, the student becomes a master of certain laws and principles each week and before the first few months have passed he no longer desires to hurry and go on more rapidly than the system provides. It is not like a course of study which must be entirely finished before it may be put into practical operation. Most of our members discover the true value and efficiency of the work after the first month of reading and experiment, and derive help from the very first lessons.

SIMPLICITY, SYSTEM, PRIVACY

The graded lessons are mailed in sealed envelopes complete with every aid, plan, suggestion or illustration necessary. Lessons are mailed each week with a system and regularity that is pleasing and dependable. Others need not know what you are studying or what you are associated with unless you desire to interest them.

A LODGE NIGHT AT HOME

Members are asked to reserve a part of one night of the week to be their "Lodge night" at home. Whether it be every Wednesday night, every Thursday night or every Friday night, thousands of other members in your own country will be studying, practicing and experimenting in attunement with you. We prefer that each member select an early or late part of Thursday evening for his or her Lodge night at home; for this is the Rosicrucian Night throughout the world and it means greater power through the multitudes who are thusly attuned. But any other evening will do in case you find it necessary on certain occasions to change your selected weekly Lodge night at home or in the privacy of a room elsewhere.

WHAT MEMBERSHIP WILL MEAN TO YOU

Through membership in the AMORC the seeker for this specialized knowledge not only finds that wonderful illumination and understanding of Nature's laws which he or she has sought in vain elsewhere, but there are many other advantages.

Each member holds a card of membership and possesses a "Password" and certain key words which will always guide, direct and encourage in the hour of need and doubt.

Those who enter the ranks of AMORC will find themselves in touch with thousands of other members at times and under conditions which cannot be explained in this book. Each will come to realize, understand and feel the strange psychic attunement with the Masters which has always

united Rosicrucians and which passeth understanding of the uninitiated.

Each member has the additional privilege of visiting any branch Lodge, of meeting all regular Lodge Brothers and Sisters on an equal basis of idealism and of enjoying all the exoteric benefits of this Order.

But undoubtedly the greatest benefit of all is that of sitting for a short period one night a week in silence at home, following our simple instructions, and, by the Rosicrucian simple process of attunement, becoming psychically and cosmically attuned with all the members in the Order who are in silent meditation and concentration at the time for fifteen minutes or more.

Likewise during this period of weekly study and attunement most of the regular R. C. Lodges of our Order are holding Temple Convocations, and these added to the correspondence membership, make thousands of minds united in love, power, sacredness, health, prosperity and Peace Profound.

It is during such weekly hours of meditation (according to the personal instructions) that the trials and troubles of life are softened, health regained, success attained, prosperity and happiness attracted, with the heart's desires fulfilled in proportion to the sincerity of desire and the worthiness of the purpose.

These hours of meditation—what Peace Profound! Unknown to others, unsuspected by even advanced students outside of our Order, yet yours most surely if you desire them and place yourself in contact with the Rosicrucians.

WHO MAY UNITE WITH AMORC BY INVITATION

The Portals of AMORC are open to any man or woman over eighteen years of age (or a few years younger by special dispensation) of any race or any religious belief, being free from allegiance to any semi-political despot or any organization which limits the freedom of man's mind and inner development. Those who know that there is a Divine Mind ruling the universe, who are clean in thinking and living, having never been guilty of treason in any country, nor engaged in any unlawful occupation and anxious to become citizens of the Invincible Empire of advanced workers and successful beings in this world are eligible to full membership in the AMORC by invitation.

WHO MAY NOT UNITE WITH AMORC

The Portals of AMORC are closed to infidels, atheists, agnostics, fanatics of any kind, drones, political conspirators, objectors to law and order, bigots, the insincere, the frivolous, doubters, idle investigators, "spiritualistic mediums" (unless they abandon such practices), promoters or endorsers of questionable sex theories under the guise of "oriental" instruction, "conscientious" (?) objectors to defending their country or flag in times of emergency or Government call, those seeking to buy power or influence with money, or those whose moral code is weak or negligible. All these, or any of them, cannot unite with the AMORC regardless of recommendations or inducements of any kind.

WHAT THE AMORC DOES NOT DEMAND

The AMORC is not a body of fanatics or extremists of any kind or class. It has in its ranks men and women of every school of therapeutics, for instance, including professors and international authorities in all the subjects of medicines, chemistry, botany, physiology, physics, and allied sciences. It has members in every art, profession, trade, business, hobby and avocation.

No demand is made upon its members that they adopt any change in religion, business or social matters, except those which each member finds are best for his or her individual advancement.

Part Five

How You May Become a Member

READ VERY CAREFULLY

Only properly admitted members of the AMORC may receive the complete instructions, courses, lessons, lectures, guides, helps and service of the organization. The Rosicrucians do not permit their knowledge to be published in books, NEVER SELL OR LOAN THEIR LESSONS OR LECTURES or otherwise permit the knowledge to come into the hands of the unworthy or those who might try to use the powers and abilities for evil or selfish ends to the harm of others.

Members of the Order do not pay for any of the lessons. These are given to them freely as a part of their membership along with all the many benefits shared by all members in all lands.

To make plain exactly what membership in the Order includes, we will outline the following benefits:

First, upon examination of the application blank and the acceptance into membership of any applicant, he or she is notified of this fact by a special letter by the Supreme Secretary. This is followed by a special set of preliminary instructions which explain all the SIMPLE rules and regulations to be followed in mastering each step of the wonderful lessons.

Secondly, the member then receives the Secret Document Number One, in which he is told how to conduct a simple but most illuminating ceremony in the quiet of some room at home on a night selected for the purpose. This ceremony reveals in one hour more startling facts of the laws of nature than could be placed in several printed books, and the member learns at once the true relation he has with the real Masters of the Rosicrucian Order. This ceremony has been performed by a hundred thousand persons in America and other lands and all pronounce it the most wonderful peace and strength-giving ceremony as well as the most important revelation of nature's laws they have ever experienced.

Thirdly, after a brief report of this ceremony, the member is considered a duly prepared student of the secret laws and principles, and as such possesses a Membership identification Card, number and Pass Word.

Fourthly, from that moment he receives weekly the specially prepared secret instructions, lectures, and lessons, with daily and weekly experiments and exercises which enable him to master each step easily and properly. The lecture and lesson each week require a part of one evening of the week for study or reading (there being nothing to memorize—everything remains in the mind through the unique method used by the Rosicrucians to teach its laws), and the exercises and experiments require only a few minutes each night, morning or noontime, at the member's convenience. These exercises and experiments develop certain faculties from the very first lessons.

Fifthly, the lessons relate to life's immediate problems as well as the future needs of the member. They help the members to master the obstacles and overcome conditions from the very start. No vague theories, no speculations about conditions in the "ethereal realms" that have no bearing upon our present life, but laws and principles that men and women must use here and now in very practical ways.

Sixth, the monthly private magazine called the Mystic Triangle is sent to each member each month without additional fee. It contains the monthly calendar of days and periods most successful for the accomplishment of certain affairs, special instructions and lessons on general life problems, and the questions and answers relating to new principles as well as reports from other members and articles by leading persons in the country on what the Rosicrucian Order is doing for them.

Seventh, each member is entitled to the many departmental services of the Order, which includes help by correspondence and through our own psychic methods, as well as additional information by mail on points in the lectures, aids in health or related matters, without any additional fees.

Eighth, the privilege of meeting with other members in the same locality as soon as a certain stage of the work is reached where the members can come together once a week in our own Temple in various cities, or in special meeting places for mutual discussion and help.

The graded, systematic lessons, lectures and experiments continue week after week with special helps to make each member proficient, until the member completes the first grade. Then the member starts on the Second Grade, and finally on the Third. At the end of the Third Grade the member has the privilege of deciding what further steps he wishes to take to attain the higher teachings.

From this point onward the member may proceed with the higher lessons grade after grade through all the grades of the Work. Thus the course of study is as complete as any offered by the largest universities so far as length of time and devotion to development are concerned.

Fees and Dues

The Order is strictly a brotherhood, operating as do all other fraternities in the world. Membership in the Rosicrucian Order carries with it the many benefits **distinct to all fraternities** and many others quite unique. Like unto all fraternities there are membership dues, payable monthly. And, there is a nominal initiation fee or "registration fee". This fee and the monthly dues of a small amount are the contributions on the part of members to the general operating funds of the Order, and take care of its propaganda expenses, its building funds, national and international humanitarian activities and its donations to many scientific expeditions and methods of research and investigation. Such fee and dues have nothing to do with the College and School work of the Order.

In addition to the general activities of the Order, the Rosicrucians conduct the College and School courses as outlined on previous pages. These courses of study are given **freely** and without charge or fees of any kind to members of the Order. Not all members who are active in the Order in America are taking up the courses of study; not all of our students are members of the Order in America, for some are members of foreign jurisdictions and pay their dues to foreign lands, but receive their teachings from our branch without fees of any kind. Therefore we wish to have you keep in mind that the study and instruction work is a separate and distinct feature of the Order, **not found in any other fraternal organization**, and for which our members do not pay.

The Supreme Council has purposely made the first "Registration Fee" very nominal. It is Five Dollars, payable with the application. The monthly dues are Two Dollars, payable on the first of each month. These fees include all the benefits of the Order's fraternal activities. There are no other fees or assessments, no books which **must be purchased** in order to study, no catalog solicitations, and no limitations to the degree of advancement the Members may make in their studies. The monthly magazine, "The Mystic Triangle", is also given free to all members who are taking the courses of study by correspondence from the Supreme Lodge.

The monthly dues are to be paid by members only so long as they desire to retain active membership in the Order.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS—VERY IMPORTANT

There are several ways in which this book may have come into your hands. The book is intended to be a private one, carefully and discreetly distributed to only those who seem to be worthy of admission into the Order.

It may have been handed to you by someone who wishes you to realize that there is something in life that may answer your desires and end your quest. It may have been passed along to you by a friend or acquaintance who feels that it will arouse an inquiry in your mind. Therefore there may be no Application Blank or letter of invitation with the book, and in that case if you feel interested you should write at once to the Supreme Secretary and ask for an application form. If your inquiry appears to be sincere the Secretary will invite you to file an application with him.

On the other hand you may have written to headquarters for this book and it may come to you by mail, or otherwise, accompanied by a letter and an Application Blank. In such a case the letter will invite you to become a member. It is a direct invitation issued after your request has been properly considered.

Also, some member of the fraternity may hand you this book and an Application Blank and invite you to join with the Order.

HOW TO PROCEED

First: Fill out the Application Blank very carefully when you are ready to file your Application. Bear in mind that **YOU ARE BEING INVITED** and not solicited in the ordinary way as with schools or some other movements. You will **NOT** be urged from time to time with letters or circular matter. The fraternity does not resort to such methods to increase its membership. The **INVITATION** from headquarters comes to you **BUT ONCE** and a record of that fact is kept upon cards at headquarters. Some member may urge you in a friendly way, but if you do not answer the official invitation you simply shut the door and cancel the invitation. We say this in the most kindly spirit.

Therefore, **DO NOT LAY THIS INVITATION ASIDE** without writing a letter to the Supreme Secretary and telling him just what you expect to do. The safest way is to send your Application Blank at once and make sure of your membership before the privilege is automatically withdrawn.

Second: Having answered all the questions in the Application Blank, sign it properly and enclose with it the Registration Fee of Five Dollars. If for any reason you cannot enclose the Registration Fee **at once**, be sure to send the Application Blank and state **why you do not enclose the Fee**. Your application in such a case will be passed upon and you will be notified of your admission or rejection. The pre-payment of the Fee **WILL SAVE YOU MUCH TIME** in starting with the work.

Third: Mail your Application Blank and Registration Fee promptly to the Supreme Secretary. Register your letter if it contains cash and if you send check or money order make it payable to **AMORC FUNDS**.

Acknowledgement should reach you within ten days or less. If you do not hear from the Secretary in that time, write him in detail. If your application is rejected for any reason whatsoever your Registration Fee will be returned to you with a frank explanation.

ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO

AMORC

ROSICRUCIAN PARK, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Long Distance Telephones: BALLARD 8295, 8296

International Cable Address: "AMORCO"

Radio Station 6KZ

AMORC DIRECTORY

The following national and international branches of the Rosicrucian Order throughout the world are affiliated with the International Fraternity known from antiquity as ANTIQUUM ARCANUM ORDINEM ROSAE RUBEAE ET AUREAE CRUCIS. The organization is not affiliated or connected in any way with any other society or with any cult or movement.

THE NORTH AMERICAN JURISDICTION

(Including the United States, Dominion of Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Guatamala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Republic of Panama, the West Indies, Lower California and all land under the protection of the United States of America.)

Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, F. R. C.....

.....Dean of the University and Imperator of the Order

Ralph M. Lewis, K. R. C.....Supreme Grand Secretary

Divisional Secretaries with Grand Lodges of the Order are located in: New York City; Boston, Massachusetts; Waterbury, Connecticut; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Tampa, Florida; San Antonio, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, Calif.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Vancouver, Canada; Montreal, Canada; St. Louis, Mo.; and Washington, D. C.

Spanish-American Section, conducting the work of the Order in English and Spanish, includes the Latin-American countries of North and South America, with headquarters in Puerto Rico, and Grand Lodges in Mexico and other countries.

Chartered Branches exist in nearly every large city of the United States.

FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS

Grand Lodges and their branches are in active operation in all civilized lands, the most important Grand Lodges being located in England, Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Austria, Russia, China, Japan, East Indies, Australia, Switzerland and India.

The College of the Order in the Orient is located in Madras Presidency, South India.

Public Lectures and Free Reading Rooms

are to be found in many of the larger cities of the East and West in the United States. Addresses will be given upon application.

To reach the Administration Halls and Supreme Lodge of the Order in North America, address all mail as follows:

AMORC, Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California



Registered U. S. Patent Office

The matter contained in this book is officially issued through the Supreme Council of AMORC under the protection of the above emblem, as are all the sealed, secret and private lectures, lessons, diagrams, dissertations, scientific postulations, philosophical discourses and academic studies of the Fraternity. The above Symbols were duly registered solely for the protection of the work of the Rosicrucian Order in North America, and the AMORC is the only Rosicrucian organization authorized to use this Registered imprint and symbols in the United States.